

Public Comment
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Incoming President
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Subject: 2021 NAC Fall Virtual Meeting Public Comment

To the U.S. Census Bureau,

On behalf of Asian Health Services, a federally qualified health center that serves over 50,000 patients in English and 12 Asian languages in Alameda County, California, I want to applaud the Census Bureau for taking such a critical move to ensure accurate and inclusive census data collection. During the last few censuses, our health center have worked tirelessly to engage our patients and community and ensure their participation in the census. As many of our communities are low-income, limited English proficient, and face a major digital divide, they are often left out. We worked hard to get them to participate. Yet, we can't do it alone and need a system that would work with us to continually increase public trust, awareness, and support to accurately measure the US population, including our diverse communities.

Setting up the Office of Strategic Alliances (OSA) is the best possible result coming out of an otherwise challenging and very difficult Census 2020. The transition of the Census National Partnership Program to continue as the OSA is an acknowledgement of the importance of the role of community based organizations and our essential contributions to the gathering and dissemination of data. This very important decision will have huge impact on all communities, including the Asian American and Pacific Islander population. We look forward to working with OSA to improve data collection, data products and data dissemination.

We want to underscore the importance of data disaggregation for the Asian American and Pacific Islander population. During the pandemic, we have seen how disaggregated data have shown major disparities in COVID-19 cases and vaccinations. Yet, we were concerned about using old data that does not fully capture the growth of this population. We look forward to working with OSA to ensure accurate data dissemination that can inform critical public health and social services programming to address health equity.

We look forward to continuing to partner around this work.

Sincerely,
Thu Quach